

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on Monday, February 10, 2003 in the Director's Office of the Main Library. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- William Barry
- Andre Mayer
- Patricia Payne
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods

also present:

- Susan Flannery, Director of Libraries
- Bertha Chandler, Assistant Director
- Marilyn Gagalis, Administrative Assistant
- Mark Freed, Associate Librarian for Reference Services

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

All correspondence was acknowledged.

In a follow up discussion about the Galbraith Lecture, it was decided that Ms Axelrod and Mr. Roosevelt would speak with Professor Galbraith about setting a specific date in September for the event and about selecting alternate speakers. It was also discussed that although the first speaker in this series may not have a Cambridge connection, all future speakers should have some connection with Cambridge.

Concerning the Fiscal 04 budget, Ms. Axelrod requested the date of the library's budget hearing. Ms. Flannery will notify the Board as soon as she is given a confirmed date.

The "Pet Peeve" problem to solve this month was improving public access to the Cambridge Collection. Ms. Flannery reported that Donald York serves on a committee with the Cambridge Historical Society that addresses the issue of preserving Cambridge materials. Currently, our materials are not organized in such a fashion nor secured in such a way as to allow free public access. Manpower is the major glitch to a resolution of this problem. Andre Mayer suggested that the library solicit an unpaid internship to provide qualified assistance. The entire Board supported the idea of the library applying for a grant and would offer a letter of support from the Board of Trustees if this were to occur.

In response to assignments for P.R., trustees reported on the contacts they have made over the past month.

Susan Flannery reported on two major initiatives the library was presenting this month; the Arbuthnot Lecture and "Cambridge Reads." All events and publicity for the Arbuthnot Lecture featuring Maurice Sendak are in the library's newsletter and on the web page. In addition, the Sendak prints donated to the library are on display in the Mail Library gallery.

The kick off event for "Cambridge Reads" is Tuesday, March 4, 2003. Ms. Flannery noted that James McBride, the author of the chosen book, **The Color of Water** would be speaking at Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School courtesy of Harvard University. The library has received great support for this program from the business community as well as the community at large. The Friends of the Library are offering financial support and many are offering to be trained as discussion leaders. All Board members were invited to host a discussion group.

Ms. Flannery reported on a patron complaint regarding the book **Arming America** by Michael Bellesiles. The patron requested that it be removed from the collection due to the controversy over the author's method of research. It was the Board's decision to support the library's present policy of providing information on any given subject, uncensored. The idea was proposed to host a panel discussion concerning books with questionable authenticity/references/information during Banned Books Week in September.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, March 17, 2003, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library.

Andre Mayer, Secretary

Action Items:

- Janet Axelrod will
 - Send flowers and thank you note to Amelie Rorty for book donation.
 - Send letter to H. Clinton's scheduler with specific date in September for Galbraith Lecture